

DESIGN FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY DISCUSSED IN A MULTIDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP

On 9 June, the 1st National Workshop of the KATCH_e project, entitled Design for the Circular Economy, was held at the University of Aveiro, with the participation of associations, higher education institutions and national companies.

The objective of the workshop was to present the project and to identify and analyze the training needs, state of the art, trends and policies in Circular Economy in Portugal.

The University of Aveiro is a partner of the project, coordinated by the National Laboratory of Energy and Geology - LNEG, which is an alliance of knowledge among higher education, companies and research centers to create skills in the field of product development services for the circular economy and sustainability in the construction and furniture sectors (<http://uaonline.ua.pt/pub/detail.asp?lg=en&c=48151>).

The Portuguese partners identified several national organizations as potential stakeholders of extreme relevance in the field of the Circular Economy and of the target sectors, and launched them the challenge to participate in the project.

The workshop featured an opening session in which the UA Vice-Rector, Prof. Dr. Gonçalo Paiva Dias, that welcomed the participants and the initiative, followed by a working session attended by about 20 entities, including business associations, higher education institutions and also professionals and companies of the region.

This session, facilitated by elements of the UA and LNEG project team, sought to discuss with all participants two key issues for the development of the project:

- A) What are the priority challenges, products and services for design for the Circular Economy in the construction and furniture sectors?
- B) What are the skills and training needs for the design and development teams?

From the sharing of knowledge, experiences and visions on these subjects, that took place in this workshop, it will be possible to begin to outline the curriculum in order to build a course that seeks to develop tools for the systematic integration of the circular economy in design.



THE FIRST SPANISH KATCH_e WORKSHOP TAKES PLACE IN CASTELLON

22 participants attended the workshop organized in Castellon on June 20, 2017 by the 3 Spanish partners of the KATCH_e project: UJI (Universidad Jaume I), ITC (Instituto Tecnológico de la Cerámica) and Prospektiker (Instituto de Prospectiva). In total 5 students, 5 researches, 6 people from companies and 6 designers had the opportunity to discuss the major issues concerning the Education and Training for Circular Economy in the Construction and Furniture Sectors.

During the session that lasted more than 3 hours, the workshop participants were divided into five groups. First, they worked individually and then, they discuss their opinions and the ones from other groups.

Together they discussed the following questions:

- Which options do you think that would make companies work in a more circular way?
- What methods and tools are good to implement circular options in companies?
- Which barriers and difficulties do you find to implement circular options in companies?
- What are the ways to encourage the transition to Circular Economy?
- Which type of training needs do you identify to facilitate the implementation of Circular Economy?

The five groups worked with the same questions during the first round, and then in the second round, they got the chance to find out about the others' conclusions and they had to assess them, grading the relevance of each of the findings.



SECOND INTERNATIONAL PARTNER MEETING IN SPAIN ON 21-22 JUNE 2017

The KATCH_e partners met once again on June 21 and 22, 2017, this time in Spain, by the Mediterranean Sea, in Castellon. This was a key 2 day meeting where partners started structuring the curriculum and building the framework of the training modules. The contents and topics of the modules were discussed in a brainstorming session. The main concern of the partners was how to develop new materials in a more innovative way, promoting the broader use of them. The developed materials will then be used by the partnership in the test phase, and after released, by all relevant and interested stakeholders.

Partners also discussed how to finalise the tasks and use the WP2 results. Another critical point was the discussion on how to engage stakeholders between workshops, bringing up ideas and initiatives to involve them.

The management issues of the project were of course addressed, facilitating the coordination between partners and a more clear definition of all tasks of the project.

The next partner meeting will take place at Wien, Austria in January 2018.



NEW BRITISH STANDARD LAUNCHED FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

BSI, the business standards company, has launched a new standard for the ‘circular economy’, BS 8001:2017: Framework for implementing the principles of the circular economy in organizations – guide.

The ‘circular economy’ is a concept which challenges organizations to re-think how their resources are managed to create financial, environmental and social benefits. BS 8001 was developed to meet these mutually beneficial goals, by providing guiding principles for organizations and individuals to consider and implement more sustainable practices. It is the first standard of its kind, both in the UK and globally.

One of the key aims of the circular economy is to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value at all times, in keeping with the mantra of the circular economy as being restorative and regenerative by design. BS 8001 outlines what the circular economy is and how an organization can transition from a linear to a circular, and more sustainable, day-to-day operation.

Practical implementation of the six principles of the circular economy – innovation; stewardship; collaboration; value optimizations; transparency; and “systems thinking” – is the bedrock of the standard, and step-by-step guidance on how an organization can navigate through the different stages of implementation is provided. “Systems thinking” is defined in the standard as an understanding of how organizations, individual decisions and activities interact within the wider systems they are part of.

Identifying the role of the circular economy in a particular organization, and how an organization can maximize the potential of this information, is one of the first steps outlined in BS 8001. Importantly, the standard is not intended to be prescriptive or certifiable; it is intended to be used flexibly by those which adopt it – irrespective of the size, sector, type or location of the organization. It is suitable for organizations at a nascent or more advanced stage of transition on implementing the principles of the circular economy.

The move to a ‘circular economy’ is a significant opportunity for businesses and organizations; by contributing to a resource efficient and low-carbon economy, costs and supply chain risks are reduced. Further benefits for businesses which choose to implement BS 8001 include improved resilience, new revenue streams, and enhanced corporate sustainability credentials.

Extensive input from UK businesses into the development of the standard has ensured the standard is useable in real-world scenarios, and that the language used in the document is not overly technical and accessible to those without prior knowledge of the circular economy.

David Fatscher, Head of Sustainability at BSI, said: “BS 8001 is a world first and further evidence that BSI, as the UK national standards body, is demonstrating leadership in developing knowledge solutions which address global challenges.

“Resource productivity is at the heart of the government’s new Industrial Strategy and demonstrates how standards can be considered business improvement tools which help organizations unlock the untapped potential of sustainable growth. BS 8001 was developed to enable organizations to take practical actions to realize the economic and social benefits of the circular economy.”

To support the framework, BS 8001 provides guidance around the specific issues surrounding the transition to a circular model – namely measurements, liability and insurance, logistical concerns, and materials. Guidance is also provided on specific associated business models, including leasing, the sharing economy, and remanufacturing.

Francois Souchet, Project Manager for Insight and Analysis at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, added: “This standard provides a valuable introduction to the practical action organizations can take to accelerate their transition to a circular economy.”

The following organizations and individuals were involved in the creation of BS 8001: BEIS - Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy; Hampshire County Council; University of Sheffield; Marks & Spencer plc, Rolls Royce; Tata Steel, Institute for Sustainability; Amec Foster Wheeler; University College London; Green Alliance; Loughborough University; Granta Design Limited; Keep Britain Tidy; Timber Trade Federation; Waste and Resources Action Programme; Centre for Remanufacturing and Reuse; Institution of Mechanical Engineers; Innovate UK; Greater London Authority; British Coatings Federation Ltd; British Precast Concrete Federation Ltd; Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment; Centre for Sustainable Design; UK Sustainability Network for Standardization; Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Zero Waste Scotland; Eden21; Shoosmiths LLP, International Lead Association; Welsh Government; University of Surrey; Resource Association; British Glass Manufacturers Confederation; National Physical Laboratory; Scottish Government; London Waste & Recycling Board; Ellen MacArthur Foundation; Chartered Institution of Wastes Management; Construction Products Association; Bioregional; Confederation of Paper Industries Ltd; BAM Construct UK.

BS 8001: 2017
A new standard for
the Circular Economy

[Find out more today](#)



SEE MORE:: <https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/about-bsi/media-centre/press-releases/2017/june/Ground-breaking-British-Standard-for-the-circular-economy-launched-/>

CIRCULAR BY DESIGN – LATEST EEA REPORT

This report explores the circular economy from a product perspective, applying a systemic approach and transition theory. Drivers of product design and usage are discussed in the context of emerging consumption trends and business models. For governance to be effective, it has to address the product life-cycle and the societal context determining it. Indicators and assessment tools are proposed that can help fill the current data and knowledge gaps.



SEE MORE:: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/circular-by-design>

RESEARCH DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AVEIRO PROPOSES BROAD SCIENTIFIC DEBATE ON SUSTAINABILITY

This year's edition of the Research Day of the University of Aveiro (UA) had as its main theme sustainability, in a broad perspective, covering topics such as Demography & Active Aging, Climate & Environment, Research & Society, as well as Social Innovation & Design. The event for the dissemination and debate of scientific works took place on June 13 at the Rectory of the UA, auditorium and contiguous space.

This event celebrates the research conducted at the UA, providing an opportunity to promote interdisciplinary sharing of good practices in research and is a vehicle for promoting collaboration between researchers from different departments and research units of the UA.



<http://www.ua.pt/researchday/2017>

See more in: <http://www.ua.pt/researchday/2017>

CORK HELMET PROJECT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AVEIRO RECEIVES PORTUGUESE CORK ASSOCIATION INNOVATION AWARD

This distinction honors the work of the researcher Ricardo Sousa of the Department of Mechanical Engineering (DEM) of the University of Aveiro (UA). Ricardo Sousa captivated the Portuguese Cork Association (APCOR) with his research on the use of cork in the coating of helmets.

Ricardo Sousa's research team has proven that, in relation to the spherovite used exclusively by all world helmet manufacturers, the presence of cork in the inner shell of the helmets not only gives the material greater capacity to absorb an impact but remains intact in the case of multiple blows on the head of the motorcycle rider. The technique is already patented and awaits the interest of the industry to conquer, mainly, motor sports that are subject to tight security measures.

"To receive this award is an honor and a stimulus for me to continue investing in the area," says Ricardo Sousa. "Cork is a Portuguese ecological product that moves much of the economy. Therefore, it makes sense that innovative applications are sought for this material and that industry and academia come together in the search for new products and ideas," he says.



See more in: <http://uaonline.ua.pt/pub/detail.asp?lg=pt&c=35173>